Cape Verdeans in New Bedford

April, 2019
This presentation includes all Cape Verdeans – people who were born in Cape Verde or who identify as having Cape Verlean ancestry.

- “Native-born” Cape Verdeans were typically born in the United States and have U.S. citizenship at birth. “Foreign-born” Cape Verdeans were typically born in Cape Verde but may be naturalized U.S. citizens.

- Cape Verdeans made up 7.5% of New Bedford’s population (8,373 people).

- Cape Verdeans living in New Bedford held 3,656 jobs and owned about 72 businesses.

- Cape Verdeans in New Bedford had an income of $170 million in 2016.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Massachusetts Department of Revenue, BPDA Research Division. Due to data limitations, “New Bedford” in this report also include Fairhaven.
The 65,000 Cape Verdeans in Massachusetts live primarily in Boston, Brockton, Taunton, and New Bedford.
Cape Verdeans in New Bedford live across the city, especially in the southern part.
The Cape Verdean community of New Bedford has been stable since 2000, but has an increasing share of foreign born.

The New Bedford Cape Verdean population is predominantly female.

Foreign-born Cape Verdeans are older, while about a quarter of native-born Cape Verdeans are children.

Native-born Cape Verdeans often only speak English at home, while many foreign-born Cape Verdeans are not proficient in English.

About half of adult Cape Verdeans work full-time.

Note: Ages 18-64.
Cape Verdeans make up 20% of New Bedford residents working in production & transportation & material moving.

30% of Male Cape Verdean workers

23% of Female Cape Verdean workers

Native-born Cape Verdean workers earn more than foreign-born Cape Verdean workers.

Improving Cape Verdeans’ educational attainment will allow greater contribution to New Bedford’s economy.

52% of foreign-born Cape Verdeans have less than a high school education. 22% of native-born Cape Verdeans aged 25 or older have some college education but have not obtained a degree.
Self-employment is an effective route to economic mobility for Cape Verdeans, more so than for the general population, but only 2% of Cape Verdeans in New Bedford are business owners, compared to 7% of all New Bedford resident workers.

Median Earnings by Type of Work

- **Business Owners**
  - Cape Verdean (MA) Workers: $36,335
  - All Massachusetts Workers: $38,017

- **Employees**
  - Cape Verdean (MA) Workers: $27,205
  - All Massachusetts Workers: $42,241

Note: Massachusetts data are used due to small sample size in Boston.
Cape Verdean businesses tend to be small and concentrated in low-paying service industries.

Only 1% of Cape Verdeans aged 18-34 years own a home, compared to 34% of Cape Verdeans aged 35 or older.

Homeownership Rates by Nativity and Age

- Native Cape Verdeans: 31%
- Foreign-Born Cape Verdeans: 19%
- Cape Verdeans 18-34 years: 1%
- Cape Verdeans 35+ years: 34%

Thank you!

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